



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

FACT SHEET

Fiscal Year 2016 Department of Labor Initiatives to Combat Trafficking in Persons

The U.S. Department of Labor has an important role to play in the fight against trafficking in persons in the United States and abroad, ranging from leveraging our law enforcement partnerships and employment and training expertise to strategic grant funding and labor diplomacy overseas.

In FY2016, the Department continued critical work to enhance its ability to leverage civil enforcement efforts to support the counter-trafficking mission; improve access to employment and training services for victims of trafficking; and strengthen international efforts to combat human trafficking in global supply chains and procurement.

ENHANCING HUMAN TRAFFICKING DETECTION AND REFERRAL TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Department's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) is often the "first responder" to low-wage worksites, detecting evidence of human trafficking alongside its civil enforcement efforts. In FY2016, WHD enhanced its capability to detect and refer cases of trafficking to federal law enforcement agencies around the country by developing enforcement-specific staff training.

In FY2016, WHD also continued to improve implementation of its internal systems for detection and referral, as well as the certification of law enforcement declarations for both U and T visas. In 2011, WHD first began to complete U visa certifications, when appropriate, for victims of certain qualifying crimes detected in connection with its workplace investigations. In 2015, WHD expanded its U visa certifications to include additional qualifying crimes and also began to certify T visas, which are specific to trafficking victims and allow access to additional services. These visas are available to victims of human trafficking and other qualifying crimes who assist, or

may be helpful to, law enforcement or other officials in prosecuting these crimes.

Finally, in FY2016 WHD continued to play a robust role in Phase II of the ACTeam initiative, an interagency effort launched in 2011 to streamline federal criminal investigations and prosecutions of human trafficking offenses.

IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES FOR TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

Obtaining employment and access to economic opportunity is a critical part of moving forward for any survivor of trafficking. The Department's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) leverages its employment and training resources and expertise to help survivors of trafficking reenter the workforce and move on with their lives when they are ready to do so.

In FY2016, ETA, the Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families, and the Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime created an interagency working group focused on breaking down the barriers to employment many trafficking survivors face.

Service providers that work with trafficking survivors face unique challenges in service delivery, including: providing culturally sensitive and trauma-informed assistance, determining how to avoid stigmatizing survivors when explaining their backgrounds to potential employers, and helping survivors develop new vocational skills that can be applied to specialized jobs.

The interagency group selected two cities with high incidences of trafficking, Miami, FL and New York, NY, to launch a pilot place-based collaboration that seeks to: (1) strengthen relationships between federal and local entities by developing employment and training focused networks between trafficking survivor service providers and existing ETA resources, and (2) disseminate information on best practices and key challenges in employment and training service delivery for this population.

The group will continue to facilitate stronger relationships between service providers and the workforce system in these two cities into FY2017, developing strategies that can be used to improve local employment and training services for survivors of trafficking more broadly in the future.

COMBATTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS AND PROCUREMENT

In FY2016, the Department continued to play an active role as a co-chair of the Senior Policy Operating Group (SPOG) Procurement and Supply Chains Committee, partnering with the Department of State and the Office of Management and Budget to help promote effective implementation of the anti-trafficking provisions of the Federal Acquisitions Regulation that went into effect in 2015. In addition, at the 2016 International Labor Conference, the Department contributed to the development of the *Decent Work in Global Supply Chains Resolution*. The resolution outlines a set of action-oriented conclusions and calls for the development of a program of action for furthering efforts to promote decent work in global supply chains.

The Department's Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) has been working to combat child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking since 1993. In FY2016, ILAB continued its enhanced international forced labor and child labor reporting through the annual publication of its *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* and the *Sweat & Toil* mobile app, as well as the biannual publication of the *List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor* and the *List of Products Produced by Forced or Indentured Child Labor*. ILAB also continues to promote its *Reduction of Child Labor and Forced Labor Toolkit for Responsible Businesses*. These tools have increased engagement and spurred action to address child labor and forced labor around the world.

